

## How to Use this Guide

Not sure how often you need to water your yard? Use the **Livermore Lawn & Landscaping Watering Guide** to help create your watering schedule. First, find the sprinkler or drip system type that is the most like your irrigation system. Then use the suggested watering schedule as a starting point and adjust as needed. The average home in California uses more than 50% of its water on outdoor landscaping, so small adjustments to your irrigation schedule can lead to big water savings!

## Watering Adjustments to Keep in Mind

**NEW PLANTS** – Deep, infrequent watering makes plants healthier and better able to withstand drought. However, new plantings may need more frequent watering than what is listed in this guide. Hand water any new plants that are added to an existing garden to ensure they get enough water during their establishment period.

**REPEAT CYCLES** – Clay soil cannot absorb water as fast as sprinklers and some drip systems apply it. To prevent runoff, set your irrigation controller to water in multiple shorter cycles instead of one long cycle. This will allow the water to soak into the soil and encourage deeper root growth. This guide assumes your plants are on flat ground, so you may need to break up watering time into additional shorter cycles if you are watering on a slope.

**MICROCLIMATES** – Plants growing in shady areas (north/east side of your home) usually require 50% less water than the same plants in full sun. This guide assumes your plants are in full sun, so adjust your watering schedule to account for microclimates if necessary.

## Additional Ways to Save

**WHEN TO WATER** – The best time to water your yard is between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. when the sun is down and temperatures are cooler.

**MULCH** – Add a 2-3 inch layer of mulch to all planted areas. This will improve plant health, reduce water loss, improve soil quality, and keep soil temperatures cooler.

**IRRIGATION SYSTEM CHECKS** – Inspect your sprinklers or drip system while they are running a few times each year. Look for sprinklers that are broken, bent, or misaligned. Look for any holes or breaks in the drip system.

**LAWN CARE** – Remember to aerate lawns once a year. This will reduce soil compaction and improve lawn health. Also, mow lawns to a 2.5-3 inch height. This will improve the quality of the lawn and reduce its water needs.

**REBATES** - Livermore Municipal Water and Cal Water offer rebates for making your yard more water-efficient. Visit your water service provider's website to learn more.

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